



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Fact Sheet

Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week Fact Sheet

- Nationally, one motorist, passenger or highway worker is killed in a work zone accident every 8.2 hours – that's three people killed each day.
- In the United States, more than 40,000 people are injured in work zone crashes each year. That's more than 100 each day!
- In 2006, five Indiana highway workers were struck by vehicles and killed while working on state highway projects.
- 63 people were killed in Indiana work zones between 2003 and 2006.
- In 2006 alone, 14 people were killed and 636 were injured in Indiana work zones.
- Four out of five people killed in work zones are motorists – not construction workers.
- The most common crash in a highway work zone is a rear-end collision. One in three work zone crashes is a rear end collision.
- The two major reasons for work zone crashes are speeding and inattentive driving.
- It takes just a minute more to travel through a two-mile work zone at 45 mph than at 65 mph.
- Drivers take a terrible risk when speeding through work zones. There is little room for maneuvering and virtually no margin for driver error.
- Areas where traffic is entering or leaving work zones are most dangerous because that's where drivers are jockeying for position.
- Things are improving. In 2005, work zone accidents and fatalities were down in Indiana and no Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) workers were killed on the job.

Driver Tips

- **Stay alert!** Look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers.
- **Pay attention.** Work zone signs will tell you exactly what to expect ahead.
- **Merge early.** If drivers merge as soon as they see the signs, traffic will flow more smoothly.
- **Slow down.** If you're speeding, you may encounter slowed or stopped traffic within seconds.
- **Don't tailgate.** Maintain a safe distance on all sides of your vehicle.
- **Minimize distractions.** The three C's – cell phones, CDs and coffee – are the primary causes of driver inattention.
- **Plan ahead.** Expect delays and allow extra travel time. Select an alternate route if you are running late.